WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
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PORTHCAWL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

TO THE PORTHCAWL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report upon the Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics of your Urban District during the year 1925.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area in Acres.....3737

Population (1921 Census).....6642

Population (Police 1925).....6830

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)..... 1297

Number " " " (1925).....1553

Ratable Value.....£34027

Sum represented by a penny rate.....£141. 15. 7

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

Porthcawl is a seaside resort and residential District with a salubrious climate, built on sandy soil, chiefly flat with a range of hills on the outlying portions thereof.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

There are no industries, the chief occupation of the inhabitants is the keeping of Boarding Houses. A few coal miners reside in the district and are employed in the coal mines near Pyle, about 3 or 4 miles distant.

THE AMOUNT OF POOR LAW RELIEF.

in the district for the year was £1839. 12. 10.

VITAL STATISTICS.

B I R T H S.

	Male.	Female.	Total
Legitimate.	65	44	109
Illegitimate.	-	2	2

which gives the Birth Rate (R.G.) for the year 15.96 per 1000.

D E A T H S.

Male.	Female.	Total
45	39	84

which gives the Death Rate (R.G.) 12.29.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE AGE YEAR OF AGE

There were 6 deaths of infants under one year of age, which gives a Death Rate of 55.04 per 1000 Births.

SPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY CAUSES OF SICKNESS DURING THE YEAR

There was an outbreak of Diptheria during November and December, 37 cases being notified. The source of the outbreak could not be traced ; the majority of the cases were of a mild character. Unfortunately only 5 cases could be admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Bridgend owing to lack of accomodation.

32 cases had to be treated a t their homes, where isolation was impossible.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre which was established in 1920, is working well.

CENTRE.	ATTENDANCE.
Council Offices, John Street.	20

The following is a record of the work carried out by the Health Visitor for 1925.

VISITS.

To Expectant Mothers----------213.

To Infants under one year.....378

To Children from 1 to 5 yrs.----------292.

OPTHALMIA NEONATORUM

There were no cases notified during the year.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS & OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

(a) General----------(One District Nurse (employed by the Porthcawl (Nursing Association.

(b) For Infectious Diseases.....Nil.

MIDWIVES Employment of, or subsidy to practising Midwives by Public Health Authority.....Nil.

There are 8 midwives practising in the District.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres----------1

Day Nurseries---------- Nil

School Clinics---------- Nil

Tuberculosis, nearest Centres, Bridgend.

Venereal Diseases, Nearest Centre, Port Talbot.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR COUNTY COUNCIL

1. Tuberculosis---------- Nil

2. Maternity---------- Nil

3. Children---------- ---------- Nil

4 Fever---------- ---- Penybont Isolation Hospital, Bridgend.

5 Small Pox---------- " " " ".

There is no Institution provided for un-married mothers., Illegitimate children, or Homeless children in the District.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

(a). For Infectious Cases---------- The Ambulance from the Isolation Hospital at Bridgend.

(b). For non-infectious Cases-----There is no Ambulance for non-infectious cases in the locality.

LABATORY WORK

Arrangements made with the Cardiff & District Public Health Labatory for Bacteriological examinations etc.

Only use made of these arrangements during 1925 was for examinations of samples of water from the Town Main supply each quarter.

Diptheria Antitoxin is supplied, and issued to the Medical men in the District when necessary.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.
LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS

Public Health Act. 1875.
Public Health Act. 1890
Private Street Works Act..... .. 1892.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act.....1907.

BYELAWS. With respect to :-

New Streets and Buildings.
Public Bathing.
Nuisances.
Pleasure Boats and Vessels.
Common Lodging Houses.
Hackney Carriages.
Horses, Ponies, Mules and Asses standing for hire.
Houses let in lodgings or occupied by more than one family.
Slaughterhouses.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS

The Sanitary Arrangements at the Public Schools, also Private Schools are from time to time inspected, and found in a clean condition.

The premises are clean and well cared for.

Nothing has been done to the playground of the National Schools which I have reported upon for the last three years.

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The Playground should be laid in such a manner as to avoid the retention of surface water.

The inspection of the Scholars is under the direction of the County Medical Officer. Infectious cases arising among the Scholars are immediately notified to the Headmasters of the Schools.

WATER

An upland water supply from the Margam Hills about ten miles from Porthcawl with a storage reservoir of 1½ million gallons capacity, and a service reservoir within the district of 1 million gallons capacity.

There has been no shortage of water during the year.

The Bacteriological and Chemical analysis of the water are fairly satisfactory. I would again suggest that all water supplies for human consumption be filtered before passing into the supply mains.

DRAINAGE

The Main Drainage system of the Western portion of the Town is satisfactory. Unfortunately the number of houses in the district not drained by main sewers but served by Cesspools have increased.

The work for the extension of the Eastern and Western drainage has been actively commenced ; in the Eastern side a large area now drained to the Pimping Station will, when complete, gravitate to the outfall, while a number of the Cesspools will be dispensed with.

SCAVENGING

The Cleansing of Cesspools is carried out by the Council and the work is performed at night-time.

House Refuse removal is carried out satisfactorily and all houses are scavenged twice weekly.

I again urge the necessity of compelling all House Holders to provide proper sanitary receptacles for containing house refuse in accordance with the provisions contained in the Porthcawl U.D.Council Act of 1914.

The back lanes are still in a deplorable condition and are a very grave menace to the health of the District. They require immediate attention.

The traffic roads and streets are kept in a clean condition.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.
CLOSET ACCOMODATION

There are approximately 15 privies, etc., situated on the outlying portions of the district where there is no sewer ; the remainder of the premises are supplied with water closets.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA

PREMISES.	INSPECTIONS.	NUMBER OF WRITTEN NOTICES.	PROSECUTIONS
3 Slaughter Houses.	12	-	-
Factories.	65	-	-
Workshops.	88	-	-
Workplaces.	-	-	-

There were twelve reports due to the want of cleanliness, which have been remedied.

There is one workshop without sufficient sanitary accomodation.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Public Health Staff of the Council is as follows :-

Medical Officer of Health - part time.

Inspector of Nuisances - part time (being also Surveyor to the Council)

Health Visitor - part time.

PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY

The prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the period 1920 to 1925 has not been excessive.

Total Number of Cases---------- 307.

DIPTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN is supplied promptly to the Medical Practitioners. No case of Encephaltitis Lethargica has been reported during that period.

No use has been made of the tests known as The Schik and Dick tests in Diptheria and Scarlet Fever, or of the recently developed artificial methods of imminization against these diseases.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-Pox) Prevention Regulations 1917.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1925.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.	TOTAL DEATHS
Small-Pox.	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever.	12	6	Nil
Diptheria	37	5	2
Enteric Fever.	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever.	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	~~Nil~~ 16	Nil	5
Erysipelas.	3		1

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY 1925.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	PULMONARY.		NON PULMONARY.		PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY	
	M.	F	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0....								
1....	—	-	-	-	1			
5....								
10...								
15...								
20....								
25....	2				2			
35	1	-	-	-	1			
45								
55								
65 &Upwards								
TOTALS.	3				4			

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS 1925.

No Action taken .

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925.(Section 62)

No Action taken.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY:-

The work of inspection as to the wholesomeness of the Milk Supply is undertaken by the County Police under the Direction of the County Council.

MEAT

No Meat Inspector yet appointed for this District.

NUMBER P OF PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSES IN USE IN THE AREA

	In 1920.	January 1925.	December 1925.
Registered.....	-	-	-
Licensed.....	4	3	3
TOTAL.	4	3	3

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

The work of inspection and examination as defined by the above Acts is undertaken by the County Constabulary under the direction of the County Council.

ACTION UNDER DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, & MILKSHOPS ORDER

There are 35 registered Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk in the District, and inspections are frequently made during the year. In many instances, the cowsheds in the District require to be overhauled, but particular attention has been paid to the cleansing and regular lime washing.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN AREA.

There is no appreciable shortage or overcrowding of houses within the district, the demands being met by Private

Enterprise.

The condition of the houses is generally good.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1925.

NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :-

a.) Total. 82.

b.) With State Assistance under Housing Acts. Nil.

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

INSPECTION.

1. Total number of dwelling houses which have to be inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 190.

2. Number of Houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910. 25.

3. Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so, dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human occupation. 1.

4. Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 10

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE

Number of Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. 30.

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

a.) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING ACT.1925

1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. Nil.

2. Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice. :-

a.) By owners.

b.) By Local Authority in default of Owners. Nil.

3. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close. Nil

b.) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring

	Defects to be remedied.	14.
2.	Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.	
a.)	By Owners.	14.
b.)	By Local Authority in default of Owners.	Nil.

c.) PROCEEDINGS UNDER HOUSING ACT 1925.

1.	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.	Nil.
2.	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	Nil.
3.	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling Houses having been rendered fit.	Nil.
4.	Number of Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	Nil.
5.	Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	Nil.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) G. Morley Thomas

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.